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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/909,866	07/23/2001	Mark J. Stender	TRAV0005-US	3245

26120 7590 11/03/2005
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EXAMINER

GLASS, RUSSELL S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3626

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/909,866

Applicant(s)

STENDER ET AL.

Examiner

Russell S. Glass

Art Unit

3626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/23/05; 4/23/02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 22 and 26 do not follow dependant claim 19 upon which they depend.

A series of singular dependent claims is permissible in which a dependent claim refers to a preceding claim which, in turn, refers to another preceding claim.

A claim which depends from a dependent claim should not be separated by any claim which does not also depend from said dependent claim. It should be kept in mind that a dependent claim may refer to any preceding independent claim. In general, applicant's sequence will not be changed. See MPEP § 608.01(n).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

- 2.. Claims 1, 7-13, 16, and 18-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luchs et al., (U.S. 4,831,526) in view of Mayaud, (U.S. Pub. 2003/0144884).

3. As per claim 1, Luchs discloses a method for providing remote access to legacy insurance applications comprising:

(a) receiving a request to access a legacy insurance application, (Luchs, Abstract; Fig. 1; Figs. 2A-F; Figs. 7-11F; Col. 2, line 57 through col. 4, line 60);

- (b) determining whether the request has authorization to access the legacy insurance application, (Luchs, Abstract; Fig. 1; Figs. 2A-F; Figs. 7-11F; Col. 2, line 57 through col. 4, line 60);
- (c) when the request has no authorization to access the legacy insurance application, displaying a denial of access and a reason for the denial and providing an option to refer the legacy application, (Luchs, Abstract; Fig. 1; Figs. 2A-F; Figs. 7-11F; Col. 2, line 57 through col. 4, line 60) (sending the application for approval or appraisals is considered to be equivalent to referring the legacy application); and
- (d) when the request has the authorization to access the legacy insurance application, displaying a screen for the legacy insurance application, wherein the screen displays a listing of actions and additional screens that access the legacy insurance application and providing an option to refer the legacy insurance application, (Luchs, Abstract; Fig. 1; Figs. 2A-F; Figs. 7-11F; Col. 2, line 57 through col. 4, line 60).

However, Luchs fails to disclose a method wherein the legacy insurance application is accessed and displayed using a web-based GUI screen. Mayaud discloses a data management system, useful in the production of insurance contracts that utilizes a web-based GUI, (Mayaud, Abstract, ¶¶ 66-70)(a nationwide system implemented by the general public is considered to be equivalent to the web).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Luchs and Mayaud. The motivation would be to create professional data management system useful in the production of product specification documents such as insurance contracts

that require detailed information from multiple extensive information sources, especially remote heterogeneous sources, (Mayaud, Abstract).

4. As per claim 7, Luchs fails to disclose a method further comprising:
providing direct links to the listed additional screens displayed on the screen via the listed actions. However, Mayaud discloses such a method, (Mayaud, ¶ 68-72).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Luchs and Mayaud. The motivation would be to create professional data management system useful in the production of product specification documents such as insurance contracts that require detailed information from multiple extensive information sources, especially remote heterogeneous sources, (Mayaud, Abstract).

5. As per claim 8, Luchs further discloses a method wherein:

- (a) receiving the request to access the legacy insurance application comprises receiving the request from a first user, (Luchs, Fig. 2A. col. 6, lines 13-24; col. 6, line 65 through col. 7, line 27; Claim 2); and
- (b) providing the option to refer the legacy insurance application comprised providing the option to refer the legacy insurance application to a second user that has the authorization to access the legacy insurance application, (Luchs, Fig. 2A. col. 6, lines 13-24; col. 6, line 65 through col. 7, line 27; Claim 2).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Luchs and Mayaud. The motivation to combine is as provided in the rejection of claim 1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

6. As per claim 9, Luchs discloses a method for providing remote enrollment to an umbrella insurance policy comprising:

- (a) receiving a request for an umbrella insurance policy, wherein the umbrella insurance policy includes a plurality of underlying insurance policies, (Luchs, Fig. 1, 2A-F, 10A-11F; col. 8, line 8 through col. 9, line 51);
- (b) displaying an umbrella detail page to collect and display limit information, exclusionary information, coverage information, exposure information and premium information from the underlying insurance policies included in the umbrella insurance policy, wherein the umbrella detail page includes an umbrella detail section, an underlying detail section, and a pricing section, (Luchs, Fig. 1, 2A-F, 10A-11F; col. 8, line 8 through col. 9, line 51);
- (c) displaying an underlying schedule screen to collect underlying policy detail representing underlying insurance policies for which the umbrella insurance policy provides excess liability, (Luchs, Fig. 1, 2A-F, 10A-11F; col. 8, line 8 through col. 9, line 51).
- (d) displaying a forms screen showing a list of derived forms on the umbrella insurance policy in a grid format, wherein there is provided an option to add or drop a form, (Luchs, Fig. 1, 2A-F, 10A-11F; col. 8, line 8 through col. 9, line 51); and
- (e) displaying a billing screen having a first grid and a second grid, wherein the first grid provides a worksheet for the users to develop an appropriate downpayment premium for collecting and displaying a specification for a payer's name and address for each of the plurality of underlying insurance policies included in the umbrella insurance

policy, and the second grid provides a worksheet for developing an appropriate downpayment premium for the umbrella insurance policy, (Luchs, Fig. 1, 2A-F, 10A-11F; col. 8, line 8 through col. 9, line 51).

Luchs fails to disclose the method via a web-based graphical user interface (GUI). However, this feature is well-known in the art as evidenced by Mayaud, (Mayaud, Abstract, ¶¶ 66-70).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Luchs and Mayaud. The motivation to combine is as provided in the rejection of claim 1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

7. As per claim 10, Luchs further discloses a method comprising collecting data about the insured of the umbrella insurance policy that is needed for the establishment of the umbrella insurance policy upon receiving a request for the umbrella insurance policy, (Luchs, Figs. 10 A-C; col. 8, lines 27-30).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Luchs and Mayaud. The motivation to combine is as provided in the rejection of claim 1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

8. As per claim 11, Luchs discloses a method wherein collecting data about the insured of the umbrella insurance policy comprises:

- (a) displaying a first screen with fields for collecting data about the insured, (Luchs, Figs. 10 A-C; col. 8, line 8 through col. 9, line 51); and
- (b) displaying the umbrella detail page upon completion of data entry into the fields of the first screen, (Luchs, Figs. 10 A-C; col. 8, line 8 through col. 9, line 51).

Luchs fails to disclose a method comprising:

- (c) displaying a directory that allows a direct link back to the first screen.

However, such a method of linking screens is well-known in the art as evidenced by Mayaud, (Mayaud, Figs. 1-3; ¶ 76-79, 133-136)(providing a direct link back to the previous patient list screen from the patient information screen via the Select Patient icon or Cancel icon).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Luchs and Mayaud. The motivation to combine is as provided in the rejection of claim 1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

9. As per claim 12, Luchs discloses a method for providing remote access to insurance applications (Luchs, Abstract; Fig. 1; Figs. 2A-F; Figs. 7-11F; Col. 2, line 57 through col. 4, line 60). However, Luchs fails to disclose a method comprising:

- (a) receiving a first request to use the web-based user interface to access, (Mayaud, ¶137-147);
- (b) verifying that the first request includes a first authorization to use the web-based user interface, (Mayaud, ¶137-147);
- (c) upon successful verification of the first authorization, granting the first request to use the web-based user interface, (Mayaud, ¶137-147);
- (d) receiving a second request to access via the web-based user interface, (Mayaud, ¶137-147);
- (e) verifying that the second request includes a second authorization, (Mayaud, ¶137-147);

- (f) if the second authorization is successfully verified, granting the second request to access, (Mayaud, ¶¶137-147); and
- (g) if the second authorization cannot be verified, displaying a notice denying access. Examiner takes official notice that displaying a notice denying access is well-known in the art. For example, computer security systems typically provide such a notice if a user-submitted password or I.D. is incorrect or outdated. The motivation to employ such a notification with the collective prior art teaching of Luchs and mayaud would have been to provide a visual indication to the user of an error.

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Luchs and Mayaud. The motivation to combine is as provided in the rejection of claim 1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

10. As per claim 13, Luchs discloses the method wherein the particular insurance application comprises an insurance policy, (Luchs, Abstract; Fig. 1; Figs. 2A-F; Figs. 7-11F; Col. 2, line 57 through col. 4, line 60).

11. As per claim 16, Mayaud further discloses a method wherein granting the first request to use the web-based computer interface comprises:

displaying a welcome screen customized for the first request based on identity of the first request as derived from verifying the first authorization, (Mayaud, Fig. 1).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Luchs and Mayaud. The motivation to combine is as provided in the rejection of claim 1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

12. As per claim 18, Luchs discloses a system wherein the screen includes options to print out forms, to establish an insurance account or issue an insurance policy, and to exit the web-based user interface, (Luchs, Abstract; Fig. 1; Figs. 2A-F; Figs. 7-11F; Col. 2, line 57 through col. 4, line 60). However, Luchs fails to disclose these functions in the welcome screen on a web-based user interface. Mayaud discloses a data management system, useful in the production of insurance contracts, that utilizes a web-based GUI, (Mayaud, Abstract, ¶¶ 66-70).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the various functions disclosed by Luchs into a web-based welcome screen similar to that disclosed by Mayaud. The motivation to combine is as provided in the rejection of claim 1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

13. As per claim 19, Mayaud discloses a method granting the second request to access the particular insurance application, (Mayaud, ¶¶ 76, 137-147). However, Mayaud fails to disclose:

providing options to add a new insurance policy, to modify a quote on an insurance policy of record, to refer a quote on an insurance policy of record, to issue an insurance policy of record, and to purge a quote on an insurance policy of record, (see Luchs, Abstract; Fig. 1; Figs. 2A-F; Figs. 6A, 7-11F; Col. 2, line 57 through col. 4, line 60); and

receiving a selection of one of the other options, (see Luchs, Abstract; Fig. 1; Figs. 2A-F; Figs. 6A, 7-11F; Col. 2, line 57 through col. 4, line 60).

However, these features are well-known in the art as shown above by reference to Luchs.

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to access the various functions disclosed by Luchs using an access control similar to that disclosed by Mayaud. The motivation to combine is as provided in the rejection of claim 1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

14. As per claim 20, Mayaud further discloses a method further comprising:
- (a) prompting a selection to establish a connection for the first request to use the web-based user interface if the first request represents the first time that the web-based user interface is used, (Mayaud, ¶ 86-92, 124, 142, 147); and
 - (b) downloading files to a source of the first request, (Mayaud, ¶ 86-92, 124, 142, 147).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Luchs and Mayaud. The motivation to combine is as provided in the rejection of claim 1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

15. As per claim 21, Mayaud further discloses a method wherein granting the second request to access the particular insurance application comprises:

providing a search screen that can perform a search of insurance accounts, (Mayaud, ¶ 76, 134, 135);

receiving a search command from the search screen, (Mayaud, ¶ 76, 134, 135);

performing the account search based on the search command, (Mayaud, ¶ 76, 134, 135);

listing results of the account search on the search screen, (Mayaud, ¶ 76, 134, 135); and

providing options to select one of the search results and create a new account name, (Mayaud, ¶ 76, 134, 135).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Luchs and Mayaud. The motivation to combine is as provided in the rejection of claim 1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

16. As per claim 22, Luchs further discloses a method wherein receiving a selection of one of the options comprises:

receiving a selection to modify the quote on the insurance policy of record, (Luchs, Fig. 2b, 7-9, col. 21, lines 28-58); and

displaying a first screen showing a first directory of available screens for the quote on the insurance policy of record, (Luchs, Fig. 2b, 7-9, col. 21, lines 28-58).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Luchs and Mayaud. The motivation to combine is as provided in the rejection of claim 1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

17. As per claim 23, Luchs discloses a method comprising the first directory of available screens for the quote on insurance policy of record, (Luchs, Fig. 2b, 7-9, col. 21, lines 28-58). Luchs fails to disclose a direct link to each of the available screens. However, Mayaud discloses such a method, (Mayaud, ¶ 68-72).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Luchs and Mayaud. The motivation to combine is as provided in the rejection of claim 1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

18. As per claim 24, Luchs discloses a method wherein receiving a selection of one of the options further comprises:

displaying on the first screen a second directory of available screens for the quote on the insurance policy of record, (Luchs, Fig. 2b, 7-9, col. 21, lines 28-58).

19. As per claim 25, Luchs discloses a method wherein the second directory includes an action available in one of the available screens for the quote on the insurance policy of record, (Luchs, Fig. 2b, 7-9, col. 21, lines 28-58). Luchs fails to disclose a direct link. However, Mayaud discloses such a method, (Mayaud, ¶¶ 68-72).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Luchs and Mayaud. The motivation to combine is as provided in the rejection of claim 1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

20. As per claim 26, Luchs discloses a method wherein receiving a selection of one of the options comprises:

(a) receiving a selection to issue the insurance policy of record, (Luchs, Fig. 10H-11B, col. 22 line 36 through col. 24, line 35); and

(b) displaying a first screen showing a first directory of available screens for the issue of the insurance policy of record, (Luchs, Fig. 10H-11B, col. 22 line 36 through col. 24, line 35).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Luchs and Mayaud. The motivation to combine is as provided in the rejection of claim 1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

21. As per claim 27, Luchs discloses a method wherein the first directory of available screens for the insurance policy includes at least one of the available screens for the issue of the insurance policy of record, (Luchs, Fig. 10H-11B, col. 22 line 36 through col. 24, line 35). Luchs fails to disclose a direct link. However, Mayaud discloses such a method, (Mayaud, ¶¶ 68-72).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Luchs and Mayaud. The motivation to combine is as provided in the rejection of claim 1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

22. As per claim 28, Luchs discloses a method wherein receiving a selection of on of the options further comprises:

displaying on the first screen a second directory of available screens for the issue of the insurance policy of record, (Luchs, Fig. 10H-11B, col. 22 line 36 through col. 24, line 35).

23. As per claim 29, Luchs discloses a method wherein the second directory includes an action available in one of the available screens for the issue of the insurance policy of record, (Luchs, Fig. 10H-11B, col. 22 line 36 through col. 24, line 35). Luchs fails to disclose a direct link. However, Mayaud discloses such a method, (Mayaud, ¶¶ 68-72).

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It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Luchs and Mayaud. The motivation to combine is as provided in the rejection of claim 1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

24. Claims 2, 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luchs in view of Mayaud as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Bosco et al., (U.S. 5,191,522).

25. As per claim 2, The collective system of Luchs and Mayaud fail to disclose a method wherein legacy insurance information resides in a mainframe insurance data processing system. However, Bosco discloses such a method, (Bosco, Col. 22, lines 57-67).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Bosco with the collective system of Luchs and Mayaud. The motivation would be to create a insurance processing and reporting system providing sales, underwriting, administration and actuarial functions through integrated program-controlled data processing systems and communicating with an insurance account data bank, (Bosco, Abstract).

26. As per claim 15, The collective system of Luchs and Mayaud fail to disclose a method wherein insurance applications reside in at least one mainframe data processing system. However, Bosco discloses such a method, (Bosco, Col. 22, lines 57-67).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Bosco with the collective system of Luchs and Mayaud. The motivation is as provided in the rejection of claim 2 above and incorporated herein by reference.

27. Claims 3-6, 14, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luchs in view of Mayaud, as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of NetQuote.com, at:

<http://web.archive.org/web/19991013070035/http://netquote.com>.

28. As per claim 3, the collective system of Luchs and Mayaud fails to disclose a method wherein the legacy insurance application comprises a commercial-lines insurance application. NetQuote.com, however, does disclose such a method. (business lines are considered to be equivalent to commercial lines).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the collective system of Luchs and Mayaud with NetQuote.com. The motivation would be to provide consumers with an effective way to shop for insurance.

29. As per claim 4, the collective system of Luchs and Mayaud fails to disclose a method wherein the commercial-lines insurance application comprises a quote on a commercial lines insurance policy. NetQuote.com, however, does disclose such a method. (see click here for business lines icon).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the collective system of Luchs and Mayaud with NetQuote.com. The motivation would be to provide consumers with an effective way to shop for insurance.

30. As per claim 5, the collective system of Luchs and Mayaud fails to disclose a method wherein the commercial-lines insurance application comprises an issuance of a commercial lines policy. NetQuote.com, however, does disclose such a method. (see Insurance Quote Request, General Information, policy effective date field).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the collective system of Luchs and Mayaud with NetQuote.com. The motivation would be to provide consumers with an effective way to shop for insurance.

31. As per claim 6, the collective system of Luchs and Mayaud fail to disclose a method wherein the legacy insurance application comprises a quote and an issuance of an insurance policy. NetQuote.com, however, does disclose such a method. (see Insurance Quote Request, General Information, select current insurance field).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the collective system of Luchs and Mayaud with NetQuote.com. The motivation would be to provide consumers with an effective way to shop for insurance.

32. As per claim 14, NetQuote.com discloses a method wherein the particular insurance application comprises a commercial-lines insurance policy.

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the collective system of Luchs and Mayaud with NetQuote.com. The motivation would be to provide consumers with an effective way to shop for insurance.

33. As per claim 17, NetQuote.com discloses a method wherein the welcome screen includes at least one marketing message.

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the collective system of Luchs and Mayaud with NetQuote.com. The motivation would be to provide consumers with an effective way to shop for insurance.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure is as follows: Tyler et al., (U.S. 5,523,942); Fox et al., (U.S. 5,796,932); Jones et al., (U.S. Pub. 2002/0024537). The following relevant non-patent literature websites are as follows:

InsureMe.Com located at:

<http://web.archive.org/web/19991012033505/http://insureme.com;>

eHealthInsurance.com located at:

<http://web.archive.org/web/19991013135253/http://ehealthinsurance.com;>

prudential.com located at:

[http://web.archive.org/web/19991008210734/www.prudential.com/home_content.html.](http://web.archive.org/web/19991008210734/www.prudential.com/home_content.html)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Russell S. Glass whose telephone number is 571-272-3132. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on 571-272-6776. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Rsg

10/13/2005


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